

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group II, claims 30-32, in the reply filed on 09 May 2011 is acknowledged.

Claims 15-29 and 33-35 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 09 May 2011.

Specification

Applicant should update the Title to reflect the elected invention, i.e. mold only.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 30, line 7, "the parting plane" lacks antecedent basis in the claim; and line 9, "loosely placed" is of indefinite scope, since "loosely" is a relative term without adequate definition in the disclosure, such that the metes and bounds of what is considered "loosely placed" cannot be ascertained.

In claim 31, line 1, “firmly arranged” is of indefinite scope, since “firmly” is a relative term without adequate definition in the disclosure, such that the metes and bounds of what is considered “firmly arranged” cannot be ascertained. Moreover, “firmly arranged” as claimed in claim 31 appears contrary to the requirement in independent claim 30 that the sealing element be “loosely placed”, thus rendering claim 31 indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fritsch et al. (U.S. Patent 5,372,491; Figures 3a-3b; col. 2, lines 3-27, and col. 4, lines 32-47).

Fritsch et al. teach a mold comprising a first mold section 22 and a second mold section 20, the first and second mold sections forming a first cavity 28' and a second cavity 28", and a sealing element 30 (Figures 3a-3b) loosely placed in the first mold section at a location of a parting line between the first and second cavities (the sealing element may move from an extended position shown in Figure 3a to a retracted position shown in Figure 3b with the sides thereof withdrawn from the sides of the recess within which the sealing element is placed, thus reading on being “loosely placed” as broadly

Art Unit: 1744

construed), wherein the sealing element may be pressed against an edge 34 of the second mold section when the sealing element is expanded under fluid pressure.

Claims 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by any one of Japanese Patent Document 2001-191361, Japanese Patent Document 10-315241, Riedel et al. (U.S. Patent 5,071,335), Hemery (U.S. Patent 4,335,068) and Japanese Patent Document 61-76333 (Figures 1-3).

Each of JP '361, JP '241, Riedel et al., Hemery and JP '333 teaches a mold comprising a first mold section and a second mold section, the first and second mold sections cooperating to form a first cavity and a second cavity, and a sealing element ("31" in JP '361; "13" in JP '241; "2a" in Riedel et al.; "18" in Hemery; "9" in JP '333) loosely placed in the first mold section at a location of a parting line between the first and second cavities (the slidable sealing element is sufficiently loose that it may be selectively moved in a sliding motion, thus reading on being "loosely placed" as broadly construed), wherein the sealing element may be pressed against the second mold section.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES MACKEY whose telephone number is (571)272-1135. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571-272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James Mackey/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1744

jpm
May 21, 2011